

Yarmouth Tree Advisory Committee

Recommended Tree Protection Measures

The Yarmouth Tree Advisory Committee has compiled the following list of guidelines to protect existing trees before construction begins on any land parcel in Yarmouth. The guidelines are based on information from a number of expert sources, one of which is referenced below.

1. Survey the site to assess the trees and identify those that are sustainable. Any trees within 10 feet of the building site should be removed and transplanted if feasible. Trees should be properly pruned of damaged or at-risk branches.
2. Prevent root compaction by erecting a secure barrier around the critical root zone of affected trees (a circle around the trunk with a radius 1.5 times the tree's diameter at breast height). Keep this area free of vehicle and foot traffic throughout construction.
3. Limit root cutting by tunneling necessary utility lines rather than trenching them.
4. Maintain the existing soil level by limiting any change in grade to 2 inches or less.
5. Aerate the soil around the tree and fertilize, water, and mulch the area. Maintain these conditions throughout construction.
6. Use permeable materials for all paved areas on the site to optimize the trees' access to water.
7. Clearly identify the trees to be protected, areas to be avoided, and consequences for failing to do so with prominent signs around the site.

Please consult the Tree Warden or the Tree Advisory Committee for more information.

Reference:

Purcell L, *Construction and Trees: Guidelines for Protection*. Purdue University. Purdue Extension publication FNR-463-W.